(d) the time likely to be taken to finalise the final seniority lists of various cadres of employees in the Delhi Tourism Development Corporation by fixing seniority under Seniority Rules, 1985?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) Tne Service rules of the Corporation have been approved by the Board of Directors of the Corporation and the same are to be circulated shortly.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes Sir. The final seniority list has been issued in case of information Assistants, Dy. Managers, General Correspondent Assistants. The tentative seniortiy list has been issued is case of Accounts Assistant, Bill Clerks, Helpers/Attendants as per the Seniority Rules, 1965.

(d) The final seniority list in all the cases shall be prepared by the Corporation after circulation of the Staff Service Rules among the employees of the Corporation.

Import of dry fruits

472. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present dry fruits import policy of Government is leading to the smuggling of dry fruits;

(b) what is the estimated authorised import of dry fruits and also the estimated demand;

(c) whether the low imports and high levies have attracted smugglers to smuggle dry fruits; and

(d) what measures Government contemplate to take to amend the policy of dry fruits import so as to check the smuggling of dry fruits into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (c) Dry fruits is not a mass consumer item and its import is restricted. Reports received by the Government and seizures made indicate some incidence of smuggling of dry fruits into the country.

(b) Import of dry fruits viz. Raisins, Sultanas and other dried grapes, figs, almonds, pistachio nuts, walnuts were of the order of Rs. 1257.48 lakhs, Rs. 2210.76 lakhs and Rs. 2072.96 lakhs for the year 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 respectively. Data beyond March, 1985 is not available.

Value of import licences issued for dry fruits (excluding cashewnuts and dates) during 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 (upto December, 1986) is Rs. 22.00 crores, Rs. 15.11 crores and Rs. 16.20 crores respectively. No assesment of demand has been undertaken, but there have been no reports of shortages.

(d) Steps are being taken to increase the production of dry fruits like almonds, walnut and pistachio in J and K, Himachal Pradesh and hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh and raisins in Maharashtra.

Garment Export Policy

473. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered it desirable to change the policy relating to the issuance of garment export licences of first come, first serve basis;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how Government propose to eliminate middleman garment exporters who are not in the line of manufacture of garments and are not the original manufacturers of garments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Export Entitlement Distribution